

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. – 4. (canceled)
5. (currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence ~~selected from the group consisting of:~~
 - ~~(a) a mature form of an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32 and/or 34;~~
 - ~~(b) a variant of a mature form of an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32 and/or 34, wherein one or more amino acid residues in said variant differs from the amino acid sequence of said mature form, provided that said variant differs in no more than 15% of the amino acid residues from the amino acid sequence of said mature form;~~
 - ~~(c) an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32 and/or 34;~~
 - ~~(d) a variant of an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32 and/or 34, wherein one or more amino acid residues in said variant differs from the amino acid sequence of said mature form, provided that said variant differs in no more than 15% of amino acid residues from said amino acid sequence;~~
 - ~~(e) a nucleic acid fragment encoding at least a portion of a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence chosen from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32 and/or 34, or a variant of said polypeptide, wherein one or more amino acid residues in said variant differs from the amino acid sequence of said~~

~~mature form, provided that said variant differs in no more than 15% of amino acid residues from said amino acid sequence; and~~

~~(f) — a nucleic acid molecule comprising the complement of (a), (b), (c), (d) or (e).~~

6. (currently amended) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 5, wherein the nucleic acid molecule comprises the nucleotide sequence SEQ ID NO:19. ~~of a naturally occurring allelic nucleic acid variant.~~
7. (currently amended) An isolated ~~The nucleic acid molecule of claim 5, wherein the~~ comprising a nucleic acid sequence molecule which encodes a polypeptide comprising amino acids 24-579 of SEQ ID NO: 20. ~~the amino acid sequence of a naturally occurring polypeptide variant.~~
8. (currently amended) An isolated ~~The nucleic acid molecule of claim 5, comprising a~~ wherein the nucleic acid sequence that molecule differs by a single nucleotide from the nucleic acid molecule of claim 5. ~~a nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31 and/or 33.~~
9. (currently amended) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 5 consisting of ~~wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of~~
 - (a) ~~— a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31 and/or 33;~~
 - (b) ~~— a nucleotide sequence differing by one or more nucleotides from a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31 and/or 33, provided that no more than 20% of the nucleotides differ from said nucleotide sequence;~~
 - (c) ~~— a nucleic acid fragment of (a); and~~
 - (d) ~~— a nucleic acid fragment of (b).~~
10. (currently amended) An isolated ~~The nucleic acid molecule of claim 5, wherein said~~ comprising a nucleic acid sequence molecule ~~which~~ hybridizes under stringent

conditions to a nucleotide molecule of claim 5. ~~sequence chosen from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31 and/or 33, or a complement of said nucleotide sequence.~~

11. (canceled)

12. (currently amended) A vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim ~~11~~ 5.

13. (original) The vector of claim 12, further comprising a promoter operably-linked to said nucleic acid molecule.

14. (original) A cell comprising the vector of claim 12.

15-18. (canceled)

19. (withdrawn) A method for determining the presence or amount of the nucleic acid molecule of claim 5 in a sample, the method comprising:

- (a) providing the sample;
- (b) contacting the sample with a probe that binds to said nucleic acid molecule; and
- (c) determining the presence or amount of the probe bound to said nucleic acid molecule,

thereby determining the presence or amount of the nucleic acid molecule in said sample.

20-29. (canceled)

30. (currently amended) A ~~pharmaceutical~~ composition comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 5 and a pharmaceutically-acceptable carrier.

31-32. (canceled)

33. (currently amended) A kit comprising in one or more containers, the ~~pharmaceutical~~ composition of claim 30.

34-38. (canceled)

39. (withdrawn) A method for determining the presence of or predisposition to a disease

associated with altered levels of the nucleic acid molecule of claim 5 in a first mammalian subject, the method comprising:

- (a) measuring the amount of the nucleic acid in a sample from the first mammalian subject; and
- (b) comparing the amount of said nucleic acid in the sample of step (a) to the amount of the nucleic acid present in a control sample from a second mammalian subject known not to have or not be predisposed to, the disease;

wherein an alteration in the level of the nucleic acid in the first subject as compared to the control sample indicates the presence of or predisposition to the disease.

40-41. (canceled)

- 42. (new) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 8 comprising a nucleic acid sequence that differs from SEQ ID NO: 19 by a single nucleotide.
- 43. (new) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 42 wherein the nucleotide at position 227 is T or C.
- 44. (new) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 42 wherein the nucleotide at position 482 is T or C.
- 45. (new) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 42 wherein the nucleotide at position 523 is A or G.
- 46. (new) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 42 wherein the nucleotide at position 548 is G or A.
- 47. (new) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 42 wherein the nucleotide at position 573 is G or A.
- 48. (new) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 42 wherein the nucleotide at position 684 is T or C.